

For more information, contact:

**Scott Keenan
Lake County Branch Manager
Northern Illinois Food Bank
847-336-3663
skeenan@northernilfoodbank.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Meat Giveaway to Local Agencies

PARK CITY, IL (Sept. 24, 2004) – About 5,000 pounds of frozen meat will be given to local food assistance agencies on Friday, Oct. 1, thanks to four anonymous donors and Northern Illinois Food Bank. The donors purchased livestock at the Lake County Fair auction and turned to the food bank to ensure the meat would be used to feed hungry people living in Lake County.

The Day of Meat has become an annual event to benefit local food pantries, residential homes, crisis centers, and soup kitchens, which are agency partners of Northern Illinois Food Bank. State Senator Adeleine Geo-Karis will be helping with the event scheduled for 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the food bank's Lake County Branch, 473 Keller Drive in Park City.

“We are very grateful to these generous donors who have decided to help our hungry neighbors here in Lake County,” said Scott Keenan, Lake County branch manager at the food bank. “Meat is needed in a healthy diet, but many people who need help putting food on their tables can't afford this luxury. Our partner agencies welcome this help in their struggle to feed the many hungry people who are turning to us for help.”

The food bank's new Mobile Pantry will also be on display at the event. This “traveling food pantry” can deliver food directly to hungry people in need of food. The 35-foot truck can carry nonperishable food, like rice, canned protein sources, pasta, and breakfast cereals, and also has refrigerated bays for fresh and frozen food. Clients can select food coming directly from the truck, thereby helping food pantries that lack adequate storage facilities for large quantities of food. The Mobile Pantry is also able to serve locations of concentrated need where residents may lack transportation to food assistance agencies or where agencies do not exist.

Northern Illinois Food Bank, through its membership in America's Second Harvest The Nation's Food Bank Network, receives donated food from large manufacturers, corporations, and community resources and distributes it to hungry people through its network of 450 nonprofit food assistance agencies in 13 northern Illinois counties. The Lake County branch opened in Park City in 2001. For more information about Northern Illinois Food Bank, visit www.northernilfoodbank.org or call Scott Keenan, 847-336-3663.

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